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Message Text

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50
ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 SSO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 AID-20 OMB-01

DRC-01 SR-02 ORM-03 /175 W
---------- 107742
P 121225Z DEC 73
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6143
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 8453

LONDON ALSO FOR S/S MR. SISCO

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, AF, PK, IR
SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN, PAKISTAN AND IRAN

SUMMARY: NAIM DEC 12 TOOK HARSHER LINE THAN HE HAD NOV 26 ON PUSHTUNISTAN ISSUE, SAYING THAT IF SITUATION IN PUSHTUN AREAS OF PAKISTAN WERE GREATLY TO WORSEN, AFGHANISTAN WOULD HAVE TO "MIX" IN THE SITUATION. ALL THINGS CONSIDERED, OUTLOOK ON THIS PROBLEM IS GLOOMY. ON OTHER HAND, AFGHAN-IRANIAN RELATIONS APPEAR TO BE IN REASONABLY GOOD SHAPE.

1. I CALLED ON PRESIDENT DAOUD'S BROTHER NAIM ON DEC 12 IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, WHERE HE RECEIVES VISITORS IN A WAY WHICH MAKES IT CLEAR THAT HE IS IN EFFECT FOREIGN MINISTER. DEPUTY FONMIN ABDULLAH WAS PRESENT AS A NOTE TAKER.
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2. DURING THE EARLY PART OF THE CONVERSATION, A TANGENTIAL REFERENCE BY NAIM TO AFGHANISTAN'S DIFFICULTIES WITH PAKISTAN AND IRAN GAVE ME AN OPPORTUNITY TO INITIATE A LONGER DISCUSSION OF THESE PROBLEMS. I TOLD NAIM THAT PRESIDENT NIXON AND SECRETARY KISSINGER STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT PROBLEMS BETWEEN COUNTRIES SHOULD BE RESOLVED THROUGH DIRECT DISCUSSIONS, POINTING OUT THAT WE HAD PRACTICED THIS APPROACH IN OUR RELATIONS WITH USSR, THE PRC, AND NORTH VIETNAM, AND HAD MADE A GREAT EFFORT TO BRING ABOUT DIRECT TALKS BETWEEN THE ARABS AND ISRAEL. I SAID THAT WE APPROACH AFGHANISTAN'S PROBLEMS WITH IRAN AND PAKISTAN IN THE SAME WAY.

3. NAIM SAID THAT AFGHANISTAN'S RELATIONS WITH IRAN ARE IN REASONABLY GOOD SHAPE. HE SAID THAT AFGHANISTAN WAS, HOWEVER, AWARE THAT THE IRANIANS HAVE SOME MISGIVINGS ABOUT LAST JULY'S COUP. HE ALSO SAID THAT THE GOA IS CONCERNED ABOUT IRAN'S SUPPORT OF THE PAKISTANIS IN BALUCHISTAN, ADDING THAT HE FULLY UNDERSTANDS THE SHAH'S DESIRE TO DETER ANY BALUCHI AGITATION WITHIN IRAN. I TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO SAY THAT I HAD BEEN PLEASED TO LEARN THAT DEP FONMIN ABDULLAH MIGHT VISIT IRAN EN ROUTE TO PRAGUE NEXT MONTH. COMMENT: AMBASSADOR HELMS MIGHT WISH TO PURSUE THE MATTER OF THE ABDULLAH VISIT WITH THE GOI WITH A VIEW TO MAKING IT PRESTIGIOUS AND THEREFORE AS PRODUCTIVE AS POSSIBLE. ABDULLAH IS SENSITIVE TO THE LEVEL AND PROTOCOLARY ASPECTS OF THE TREATMENT HE RECEIVES.

4. NAIM ALSO TREATED ME TO A LENGTH HISTORICAL ACCOUNT OF THE PUSHTUNISTAN ISSUE, GOING OVER HIS OWN EFFORTS WHILE HE WAS FONMIN AT ENGAGING IN DIRECT TALKS WITH THE PAKISTANIS, ALL OF WHICH, IN HIS VIEW, CAME TO NAUGHT BECAUSE THE PAKISTANIS WERE NOT INTERESTED IN FRUITFUL DISCUSSIONS. NAIM'S FORMULATION ON PRESENT AFGHAN POLICY WAS A LITTLE DIFFERENT FROM THE ONE HE GAVE ME WHEN WE LAST MET (KABUL 8106). IN EFFECT, HE SAID AFGHANISTAN HAS ALWAYS BEEN AND CONTINUES TO BE CONTENT WITH ANY ARRANGEMENT FOR THE PUSHTUNS IN PAKISTAN WHICH IS SATISFACTORY TO THE PUSHTUNS THEMSELVES. HE SAID THAT THE CURRENTLY, AS HE TERMED THEM, REPRESSIVE POLICIES OF THE BHUTTO GOVERNMENT ARE NOT "CONSTRUCTIVE" IN TERMS OF PAKISTANI-AFGHAN RELATIONS. HE ADDED THAT IF THESE "REPRESSIVE" POLICIES SHOULD CAUSE THE SITUATION IN THE PUSHTUNISTAN AREAS OF PAKISTAN GREATLY TO WORSEN, AFGHANISTAN COULD NOT AVOID CONFIDENTIAL

"MIXING" IN THE SITUATION. NAIM ASKED THAT I GIVE AMBASSADOR BYROADE HIS WARMEST PERSONAL REGARDS. HE SAID THAT HE WAS CERTAIN THAT AMB BYROADE, BEING SO FAMILIAR WITH AFGHANISTAN'S VIEWPOINT, WOULD BE ABLE TO BE HELPFUL IN THIS SITUATION.

5. I RESPONDED THAT WE HAD, AS HE KNEW IN RECENT WEEKS COUNSELLED THE PAKISTANIS BOTH TO ESTABLISH BETTER DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATION WITH AFGHANISTAN AND ALSO NOT TO TAKE STEPS WHICH WOULD EXACERBATE

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THE SITUATION. I ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT I WAS CERTAIN NAIM WOULD NOT WANT AMB BYROADE TO BE THE AFGHAN AMBASSADOR IN PAKISTAN, A COMMENT WHICH BROUGHT AN UNDERSTANDING SMILE FROM NAIM, AND THAT I HOPED THAT THE AFGHANS WOULD DO EVERYTHING THEY COULD TO IMPROVE DIRECT DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATION. IN THIS CONNECTION, THE CURRENT KUCHI (NOMAD) PROBLEM WAS MENTIONED BRIEFLY BY ADBULLAH, WHICH GAVE ME AN OPPORTUNITY TO SPELL OUT IN SOME MORE DETAIL AMB BYROADE'S ATTITUDE AS GIVEN IN ISLAMABAD 10613 (NOTAL). I ONCE AGAIN SUGGESTED THAT AMB POPAL STAY IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH AMB BYROADE.

COMMENT: IT IS DIFFICULT TO SEE ANY RAYS OF SUNSHINE IN THIS PROBLEM AT THE PRESENT TIME, ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF INFORMATION BEING REPORTED SEPTEL THAT THE PAKISTANIS HAVE DECIDED NOT TO PERMIT THE KUCHIS TO ENTER PAKISTAN THIS SEASON.

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